



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEKLY UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28TH, 2008

Environmental & Agriculture Education Cluster

- Efforts are continuing to refine and revise the Program Standards and Guidelines, to adapt the national document to more closely match Montana's needs. The implementation process related to the standards is in the process of development also. Montana's final product will include references to Career Clusters and Programs of Study;
- In addition to Program Standards, the National Curriculum Content Standards, as well as the Crosswalk of Curricular outcomes with other curricular areas - i.e. Math, Science, English, etc - is soon to be released at the national level. With the USDA grant that Shields Valley Schools and MSU received to revise and rewrite the Montana Ag Ed curriculum underway, the final product will reflect and integrate the national content standards as well;
- Initial efforts are being made to develop articulation agreements with Montana State University - Bozeman and the College of Agriculture. There are limited or no articulation agreements existing now due to the fact there are few Agriculture related programs at the Colleges of Technology (COTs) and 2-year colleges in Montana, making articulation agreements difficult to identify.

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Business, Management, & Information Systems Cluster

TECH PREP BUSINESS CLUSTER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING occurred on January 15 with Cathey White, Eastern Region Tech Prep Coordinator; Jim Wenderoth, UMCOT; Courtney Johnsrud, MSU-GF; Diana Fiedler, OPI; and George Burns, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) attending. Items of interest discussed:

- ★ EXTENDING CURRENT ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS: Articulation agreements currently in effect will be extended and remain in effect as they are at the present. This 'extension' will allow for business as usual while new cluster & pathway development happens. Inquiries of earned tech prep credits already awarded at post-secondary institutions should be referred to Bill Roope, Western Region or Cathey White, Eastern Region. Inquiries can also be addressed to George Burns at OCHE.
- ★ TECH PREP BUSINESS CLUSTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The committee discussed names of people they would recommend to make up an Advisory Board to the committee. Individuals recommended have/will be contacted to extend the invitation by January 25, 2008. Representation from business, labor and industry, post-secondary, secondary (AA/A/B/C-sized school representation) will be included.
- ★ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS: The committee decided to add onto existing professional development already started and in place at MSU-GF and MSU-Billings as a beginning point for this year. Still in the development stages, more information can be found online at msugf.edu or msubillings.edu. In addition to usual technology workshops, the committee has plans to also add sessions on the Business Management & Information Systems cluster and Big Sky Pathway development and implementation.

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Health Sciences & Human Services and Resources Clusters

Family and Consumer Sciences

- The MT Innkeepers Association has partnered with FCS as an industry partner. They have a new curriculum available in Lodging Management that fits well under the Hospitality and Tourism Career Cluster. We will be demonstrating Big Sky Pathways in lodging and culinary arts at the April 2008 MAFCS conference in Helena.
- I have asked other state FCS specialists if they have curriculum in human services/social work in order to offer our FCS teachers more options for Big Sky Pathways.
- The Missoula School District's FCS teachers are looking into the possibility of an Intergenerational Care curriculum and hopefully they will have a report for us when they return from their professional development trip to Wisconsin.

Health Sciences Technology Education

- One of our most critical issues for HSTE is the lack of health sciences teachers in smaller schools. Applied Technologies has agreed to let the state review an on-line curriculum for a health sciences foundation course which could be delivered through a porthole on the OPI website. Students would then be matched with local mentors from community healthcare facilities for assistance with hands-on learning and student questions.
- The company that developed Anatomy in Clay would like to demonstrate their curriculum in Montana. Is this of interest to any health sciences or science teachers who currently teach A & P?

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Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems Cluster

The Manufacturing Cluster and Professional Development meeting planned for last week with the postsecondary representative and staff from Helena College of Technology (COT) was canceled. The meeting is tentatively rescheduled for next Tuesday (January 29).

As of Friday, January 25, MSU-Northern had not officially appointed a person to serve as the Eastern Region Coordinator.

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